

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

Applicants: Donald Van Doorn; James Hawkins)

Serial No.: 09/162,563)

Filed: September 29, 1998)

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR)
SEPARATING FOREIGN MATTER)
FROM FIBROUS MATERIAL)

Examiner: Welch, G.

Group Art Unit: 3741

200 Cahaba Park Circle
Suite 125
Birmingham, AL 35242
October 28, 1999

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Amendment/Fee
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed April 28, 1999.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 12 through 24. Please amend claims 1 through 11 and
add new claims 25-29 as follows:

1. (once amended) In a fiber cleaning apparatus [system] in which fiber[s]
tufts are pneumatically conveyed into the apparatus [system] in a high speed [an]
air stream commingled with foreign matter, an improvement [fiber cleaning
apparatus] comprising: